

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN L-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 OES-02 INR-05 PRS-01
DODE-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-04 IO-06
PM-03 SP-02 DLOS-02 /054 R

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EUR/SOV - MR. COLBERT
OES/OFA/OA - MR. BUSBY
INR/RGE - DR. HODGSON

-----022779 090143Z /75

R 090037Z OCT 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T STATE 242754

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PLOS, UR, US

SUBJECT: U.S.-SOVIET MARITIME BOUNDARY

1. FYI: DEPARTMENT HAS INFORMATION THAT SOVIET FISHERY
PATROL VESSELS HAVE BEEN BOARDING JAPANESE FISHING VESSELS
, AREAS OF THE BERING SEA WITHIN THE U.S. FISHERY CON-
SERVATION ZONE. THIS ACTION SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN
BECAUSE SOVIETS ARE DESCRIBING THE 1867 CONVENTION LINE
AS RHUMB LINES, WHILE THE U.S. DESCRIBES IT AS ARCS OF
GREAT CIRCLES. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE METHODS OF
DESCRIBING THE 1867 CONVENTION LINE IS SOME 17,000 SQUARE
MILES OF THE BERING SEA. END FYI.

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2. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO DELIVER NOTE IN PARA. 3 TO THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY. NOTE SPEAKS FOR ITSELF, AND ACCORDINGLY
WE DO NOT WISH TO SOLICIT A REACTION FROM SOVIETS ORALLY
AT THIS TIME. PLEASE CONFIRM DELIVERY BY CABLE, AND
POUCH TO L PHOTOCOPY OF NOTE ACTUALLY DELIVERED.

3. BEGIN TEXT: (COMPLIMENTARY OPENING) AND HAS THE HONOR

TO REFER TO THE EMBASSY'S NOTE NO. 99 OF JANUARY 24, 1977, AND THE MINISTRY'S NOTES NO. 11 OF FEBRUARY 24, 1977, AND NO. 17 OF APRIL 8, 1977. THE EMBASSY ALSO HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE CONVENTION SIGNED AT WASHINGTON MARCH 30, 1867, AND TO OBSERVE THAT NO MAPS WERE APPENDED TO THAT CONVENTION.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WISHES TO CONFIRM THAT THE LINE REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE I OF THE 1867 CONVENTION DESCRIBES THE SHORTEST DISTANCE BETWEEN THE POINTS SPECIFIED THEREIN, AND, ACCORDINGLY, ITS SEGMENTS ARE THOSE OF THE RESPECTIVE GREAT CIRCLES INTERSECTING EACH PAIR OF POINTS.

THE COORDINATES UTILIZED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO DEFINE THE CONVENTION LINE WERE DEVELOPED BY U.S. CARTOGRAPHIC EXPERTS IN 1955 AND HAVE BEEN PRINTED ON U.S. OFFICIAL MAPS SINCE THAT DATE. THE COORDINATES FOR PERTINENT POINTS WERE MOST RECENTLY PUBLISHED IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE OF MARCH 7, 1977, DEFINING THE LIMITS OF THE UNITED STATES FISHERY CONSERVATION ZONE. A FULL SET OF THE COORDINATES MOST RECENTLY PUBLISHED BY THE GEOGRAPHER IN INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY STUDY NO. 14, OCTOBER 1, 1965, IS ATTACHED.

RECOGNIZING THAT DIFFERENCES IN THE DELINEATION OF THE
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1867 CONVENTION LINE COULD ARISE BECAUSE OF USE OF A DIFFERENT GEODETIC SPHEROID AND HORIZONTAL DATUM, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WISHES TO INQUIRE WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS SHARES THE VIEW THAT A COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF THE PRECISE LOCATION OF THE RELEVANT POINTS REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE I OF THE CONVENTION WOULD BE DESIRABLE. END OF NOTE.

4. ATTACHMENT - COORDINATES

INITIAL TURNING POINT - LATITUDE - 65 DEGREES 30.0 MINUTES N; LONGITUDE - 168 DEGREES, 58 MINUTES, 22.587 SECONDS WEST.

TURNING POINT NO. 2 - LATITUDE - 64 DEGREES, 12.3 MINUTES NORTH; LONGITUDE - 172 DEGREES 00 MINUTES WEST.

MID-POINT BETWEEN MEDNY AND ATTU ISLAND - LATITUDE - 53 DEGREES, 45.0 MINUTES NORTH; LONGITUDE - 170 DEGREES, 16.0 MINUTES EAST.

END POINT, SOUTHWESTERN EXTREMITY OF CONVENTION LINE -
LATITUDE - 50 DEGREES 36.4 MINUTES NORTH; LONGITUDE -
167 DEGREES, 00 MINUTES EAST.

5 DEGREE INCREMENTS OF LONGITUDE ALONG GREAT CIRCLE ARCS -
LATITUDE - 65 DEGREES, 04.2 MINUTES NORTH; LONGITUDE -
170 DEGREES, 00 MINUTES WEST; LATITUDE - 62 DEGREES,
59.4 MINUTES NORTH; LONGITUDE - 175 DEGREES, 00 MINUTES
WEST; LATITUDE - 60 DEGREES, 33.5 MINUTES NORTH; LONGITUDE-
180 DEGREES; LATITUDE 57 DEGREES, 28.0 MINUTES NORTH;
LONGITUDE - 175 DEGREES, 00 MINUTES EAST; LATITUDE - 53
DEGREES 31.0 MINUTES NORTH; LONGITUDE - 170 DEGREES, 00
MINUTES EAST. END OF ATTACHMENT. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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